

President's Greeting
Visiting International Scholars' Conference Reception
Nov. 14, 2008, Friday

Good evening everyone.

Researchers and graduate students, it is my pleasure and honor to welcome all of you gathered here today to the Visiting International Scholar's Conference Reception.

Compared to other universities here in Japan, Waseda University has from the very onset worked to "Internationalize both education and research" within the entire organization. Collaborating with the global research community to expand opportunities with regard to courses, research, students, and researchers will set the stage for not only international exchange, but also establish a system for the broad sharing of academic resources. I am confident that further expansion and diversification of such efforts will open more and more educational opportunities for the researchers and students of Waseda University. Allow me to give two examples.

First of all, from an educational standpoint, we will need to establish the basic foundations for a joint curriculum composed of student exchanges, and courses offered in coordination with overseas universities. Secondly, from a research standpoint, we will seek to promote further partnerships with the private sector through a multi-layered approach aimed at both domestic and international corporations.

Today, we live in an age where the international competitiveness of institutions of higher learning will play a key role in a university's future growth and status. Those which rely on a strategy calling for the traditional, singular notion of the advancement of "one's own university" or "one's own nation" will over the long-term face tremendous disadvantages. I firmly believe that achieving an all-inclusive, global network of people, education, and research, or what is termed the

"Symbiotic Creation of Knowledge" is of primary importance.

Also of primary importance is the maintaining of a global perspective as we seek out new partnerships between universities, and the mutual exchange of intellectual resources between partner universities. Fundamental to this process is the basic principal that we need to share information in order to learn more about one another. As we look towards the future, we are firmly committed to actively recruiting and inviting international scholars to Waseda University.

As part of our continual efforts to provide the finest education possible for future generations, we believe this Symposium presents a precious opportunity. We welcome your frank input as objective researchers regarding research conditions and the living environment here at Waseda, as well as what you believe are the strong points at other universities. Although we realize that from our standpoint, some of the opinions you have may be negative or embarrassing to hear, today we are here to listen to what you have to say.

In order for Waseda University to become a learning institution that you can all be proud of and would recommend to your peers and students, it is imperative that the discussions we have with you today are taken into account and considered for further review when applicable. It is my sincere hope that we can apply some of your suggestions.

Thank you for your undivided attention and have a pleasant evening.